What is claimed is:

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A method for executing a locked bus transaction in a multi-node system, comprising:

initiating a locked-bus transaction at a bus agent;

transmitting a locked-bus request to a first node controller; and

deferring the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent by said first node controller.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to a second node

3 controller.

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3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

preventing bus transactions on a bus coupled to said second node controller.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

asserting a signal to said bus agent by said first node controller to prevent said bus agent

3 from initiating a bus transaction

- The method of claim 5 further comprising: 1 6. 2 transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to a second node controller. The method of claim 6 further comprising: 1 7. preventing bus transactions on a bus coupled to said second node controller. 2 The method of claim 7 further comprising: 1 8. deasserting said signal to said bus agent by said first node controller. 2 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising: performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system. īU Ц 10. A multi-node system comprising: a bus agent to initiate a locked-bus transaction; and a first node including a first bus and a first node controller to receive a locked-bus request and defer the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent. The system of claim 10 further comprising: 1 11. 2 a second node including a second bus and a second node controller to receive the locked-
 - 1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein said second node controller is to prevent bus transactions
 - 2 on said second bus.

bus request from the first ndde controller.

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- 1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the bus agent is to perform the locked-bus transaction over the multi-node system.
- 1 14. The system of claim 10 wherein said first node controller is to assert a signal to said bus
- 2 agent to prevent said bus agent from initiating a bus transaction.
- 1 15. The system of claim 14 further comprising:
- 2 a second node including a second bus and a second node controller to receive the locked-bus
- 3 request from the first node controller.

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- 16. The system of claim 15 wherein said second node controller is to prevent bus transactions on said second bus.
- 17. The system of claim 6 wherein said first node controller is to deassert said signal to the bus agent.
- 1 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the bus agent is to perform the locked-bus transaction
- 2 over the multi-node system.
- 1 19. A method for executing a locked bus transaction in a multi-node system, comprising:
- 2 initiating a locked-bus transaction at a bus agent;
- 3 transmitting a locked-bus request to a first node controller;
- deferring the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent by said first node controller;

transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to a switching agent; 5 6 and preventing further transactions from said witching agent. 7 The method of claim 19 further comprising: 1 20. performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system via the 2 switching agent. 3 A method for executing **b** locked bus transaction in a multi-node system, comprising: 1 21. initiating a locked-bus fransaction at a bus agent for a first I/O node including a first I/O device; ļЬ transmitting a locked-bus request to a first node controller; and 4 TU deferring the locked-bus transaction at the bus agent by said first node controller. 145 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising: transmitting the locked-bus request from the first node controller to the first I/O node. The method of claim 22, further comprising: 1 23. preventing transactions at the first I/O node for I/O devices coupled in said first I/O node. 2 1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising: performing the locked-bus transaction by the bus agent over the multi-node system to the 2 3 first I/O device.